

The S-DCS Column

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE STAKEHOLDERS OF SUNMAN-DEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR SCHOOLS

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Recent reports in the newspapers and on television have detailed the issues involving Indiana's statewide school accountability system. In these reports, it was shared that some schools may have had their data changed to show a better score on the accountability system. To further add to this issue of accountability, a study was completed on the impact of test interruptions in last spring's ISTEP+ testing was shared. In that study, the findings from an independent expert stated that there would not be any impact on student achievement from those interruptions.

When one thinks about accountability, it is not unusual to use outside measures and outside authorities to evaluate an organization's progress. I contend that for accountability to truly have meaning, one must look at it from an internal perspective. As stakeholders in our school corporation, the ideas, opinions and concerns about the Sunman-Dearborn CSC weighs heavier than any outside organization. The members of our community who have entrusted our schools to educate their students are the ones who truly matter when it comes to accountability. However, the views of our community members can be formed based on information that they may read in newspapers or watch on the nightly televised news programs.

As a school corporation whose vision is: We will become the highest performing school corporation in southeast Indiana by June 2015 and one of the 10 highest performing districts in the state of Indiana by June 2017, it is imperative that we gather information from our stakeholders to help us reach this vision. With that in mind, Sunman-Dearborn CSC would like to invite you to participate in an online survey to tell us what you think about our schools and how we can improve. It is your opinion and your participation that will really help us.

As always, if you have information to share or concerns that need to be addressed, please do not hesitate to contact our schools, administrators or school board members. We are here to help.

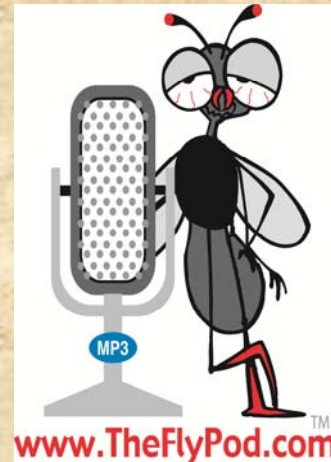
Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent

Please check our Sunman-Dearborn Community School website for online survey coming soon at:

<http://sunmandearborn.k12.in.us.com/>

DON'T MISS THE BUZZ

Each month Sunman-Dearborn Schools is featured on The FlyPod, a local entertaining yet informative media source. Superintendent Dr. Hendrix joins host Gary Puckett monthly for his "SuperChat" podcast. Enter <http://tinyurl.com/SuperChat-SDSC-3> in your address line on a new web page to hear the latest SuperChat. This month's chat will be recorded on September 5th and will feature Don Stonefield, Athletic Director, discussing EC Hall of Fame and features student athletes speaking on how they are working in the classroom and on the field to be successful. On September 6th, Karen Snyder from United Way of Dearborn County will join Dr. Hendrix.



BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Do you feel like you never have enough time in the morning? Between getting yourselves and the kids ready for work and school it can be very difficult to find time for breakfast. Although it may be tough, breakfast is a crucial meal. Starting the day off right, with a good breakfast, can make a positive difference on how you feel and think the rest of the day. Fortunately, Sunman Dearborn Community Schools offer a nutritious and delicious breakfast every day for our students!

Many studies show that hungry children have a hard time concentrating in class, they have more behavior problems, and they even score lower on standardized tests than do their counterparts. Therefore, eating breakfast can help students learn and retain knowledge more effectively! Skipping breakfast can make kids feel tired, restless, or irritable. In the morning, their bodies need to refuel for the day ahead. Their mood and energy can drop by midmorning if they don't eat at least a small morning meal. Breakfast also can help keep kids' weight in check because breakfast kick-starts the body's metabolism!

School Breakfast is open to all students and is served every morning in each school's cafeteria. Menus are available on your school's website, under the Food Services tab.

Ms. Olivia Scardina
Director of Food and Nutrition Services



SUNMAN-DEARBORN BRIGHT ELEMENTARY

KID'S FIRST DAY PHOTOS



NATIVES AND IMMIGRANTS: HISTORY'S LESSONS FOR THE DIGITAL WORLD

When you consider people in nations and their cultures, the people in the nation are either natives (born into the culture) or immigrants (moved into the culture). Natives are rather fearless about their actions and activities within the culture, while immigrants must spend some time learning the rules and methods for negotiating within the culture. The digital and technological revolution in which we currently live is no exception.

Today's elementary students are absolutely digital natives. They don't remember a time before laptops, NetFlix, flat screen TVs, YouTube, iPods or cell phones. They interact with digital devices and media with a fearless and almost seemingly innate understanding of that environment.

While many of their parents are sophisticated with technology as well, some of them, and certainly most of their grandparents, are still digital immigrants. They have to learn how to negotiate the hardware and software of the digital world. They may not be interested in learning the latest and greatest bit of social media, and often avoid what they do not know.

An area where these two 'cultures' collide can involve students' safety. The fearless digital natives navigate the internet, post photos to social media, and communicate with one another without ever uttering a word. Because many parents are digital immigrants, they do not adequately monitor their children since these parents do not understand how the powerful technology is used.

The best way to counteract this collision is for the digital immigrants to actively seek new knowledge and strive to understand the technology that is at their own fingertips. Who will teach them? The digital natives, of course! The worst that could happen is that parents know the hardware and software their children are

using and become frustrated with it. The upside is being able to communicate effectively with those digital natives in their own 'language'.

*Ms. Cindy Morton
Sunman
Elementary School Principal*

THE TIME TO SET GOALS IS NOW

The 2013-14 school year has begun. Staff, students and parents have jumped right in and are already operating with mid-year efficiency. It is the perfect time for you to sit down and set some goals for this school year. What will they be? Increase Accelerated Reader points for the first quarter? Be named to the Honor Roll by the end of the semester? End the year with perfect attendance? Whatever your goals, now is the time to take steps toward achieving them. Start with a positive attitude, solid work ethic and the determination that you will attain the goals you set out to achieve and you will succeed. Choose this to be the year that you work harder, focus more and become determined enough to achieve your goals that there is no way anything will get in your way. I wish you the best of luck on accomplishing all you set out to do and achieving your goals. Have a great year!

*Mr. Jeff Bond
North Dearborn
Elementary School Principal*

"You Can't **STOP What You Don't Know!"**

COME AND WITNESS JERMAINE GALLOWAY

Ask yourself these questions.

- Do you want the drug usage in your community to be stopped?
- Do you want to prevent and stop underage drinking?
- Most importantly, do you want to be the solution to these issues?

Officer Jermaine Galloway has been an Idaho law enforcement officer since 1997 and has more than 10 years' experience in underage drinking, drug and alcohol enforcement.

At 6 feet 9 inches tall, Officer Jermaine Galloway looks like an intimidating presence, but he is devoted and passionate about education, training, and enforcement when it comes to alcohol and drug use and abuse prevention.



COME AND JOIN YOUR COMMUNITY FOR A ONCE IN A LIFE TIME PRESENTATION WITH OFFICER GALLOWAY!

Tall Cop Says Stop

In Collaboration With:

When: Thursday September 19th, 2013
Where: Lawrenceburg Community Center
Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm
Cost: **FREE**



➤ R.S.V.P. Is Required

- Call CASA Office: 812-532-3538
- Or Email:
- annalysehedrick55@embarqmail.com
- R.S.V.P. By: Friday September 13, 2013

❖ Food and Drinks will be provided at no cost

*For each person to help prevent youth and adult substance abuse, you **MUST** know what is going on in your community. Come and gain tools and knowledge that you can utilize to make a difference in your community!*

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Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

1 Trojan Place, Suite B
St. Leon, IN 47012

Phone: 812-623-2291

Fax: 812-623-3341

The mission of S-DCS is to develop, for all students:

- Literacy skills (reading, writing, communicating confidently)
- Mastery of state and national standards
- Character, responsibility, teamwork, the importance of regular attendance, goal-directedness, and service to community
- High graduation rates and post-secondary success

We are on the web at
www.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Sunman-Dearborn Administration Offices · 1 Trojan Place, Suite B · St. Leon, IN 47012 ·
Ph: 812-623-2291 · Fax: 812-623-3341

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Ph: 812-576-4811 · Fax: 812-576-2047

Sunman-Dearborn Middle School · 8356 Schuman Road · St. Leon, IN 47012 ·
Ph: 812-576-3500 · Fax: 812-576-3506

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School · 27650 Sawmill Road · West Harrison, IN 47060 ·
Ph: 812-576-1900 · Fax: 812-576-1901

Bright Elementary School · 22593 Stateline Road · Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 ·
Ph: 812-637-4600 · Fax: 812-637-4606

North Dearborn Elementary School · 5687 North Dearborn Road · Guilford, IN 47022 ·
Ph: 812-656-8383 · Fax: 812-656-8321

Sunman Elementary School · 925 North Meridian Street, Suite 200 · Sunman, IN 47041 ·
Ph: 812-623-2235 · Fax: 812-623-4330